

## **R6 DAILY SUMMARY**

### **December 6, 2012**

#### **Actions in SCOUT:**

- Director signed PCB Incineration re-authorization for Veolia facility in Port Arthur, Texas. (PD)

#### **External Outreach:**

- R6 staff participated along with the DRA in the monthly Environmental Justice Committee call that focused on a discussion of EJ and Permitting and the Regional Implementation Plans. Discussion focused on several key issues including consistency of Regional Plans, additional Tribal Consultation and Public Comments, Prioritization of Permits and Jointly Issued Permits. (OEJTA)
- Attended briefings with RA in New Mexico. RA spoke to Green Lodgers meeting and participants in various meetings included Governor Martinez and other NM officials (XA)
- Press: Provided information about the Goliad Texas Aquifer Exemption action to be given to citizens (XA)
- Press: Provided information about the Goliad Texas Aquifer Exemption action to Victoria Advocate (XA)
- Press: Provided localized press release from HQ, "EPA Announces Recipients of 2012 Environmental Justice Small Grants (XA)
- Congressional: Provided information to follow up questions from Sen. Coburn regarding the Oklahoma Refining Superfund Site (XA)
- Congressional: Provided response to follow up question from Congressman Boustany's office about additional recipients of the Environmental Justice Small Grants awards. There is another recipient in Louisiana in Congressman Cassidy's district. (XA)
- Congressional: Notified Congressmen Cassidy, Boustany, Pearce, Lujan, and Reyes of press release entitled "EPA Announces Recipients of 2012 Environmental Justice Small Grants (XA)
- Coordinated call with TCEQ to discuss future aquifer exemptions. (WQ)
- Staff from 6PD-C had a call with the NFL and New Orleans Superbowl Host Committee environmental representatives to discuss plans for a wetlands restoration project to occur in conjunction with other activities around the Superbowl. Both expressed interest in supporting the project, particularly in purchasing plants to be used in the restoration, and will pursue funding/sponsorship opportunities over the next week. (PD)
- 6PD management and ORC held a call with Kelly Harigan regarding a request for an EPA meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> on Exide, Frisco demolition, remediation and enforcement activities. Meeting participants would include K. Harigan, Jim Schermbeck and Frisco Unleaded Board Members. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1:00 in the Regional Office. (PD)
- TCEQ and EPA have committed to conduct a public meeting on Encycle remediation plans in Corpus Christi on December 18<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held near the Dona Park community. (PD)

#### **Organizational/Personnel:**

- Routed National Awards for Director signature. (WQ)
- Attended Eight Essential Elements of an Excellent Enterprise Training (RC)

**Significant Emergency Responses:** None

**Actions taken or Documents Issued:**

- On-Scene Coordinators Althea Foster, Roberto Bernier, Valmichael Leos, and Mark Hayes demobilized from Region 2 New York response operations on December 3. OSCs John Martin, Jon Rinehart, and Brandi Todd mobilized to Region 2 New York response operations to backfill the returning OSCs. (SF)
- MULTI-REGION LAB EXERCISE, HOUSTON, TX: On-Scene Coordinator Jhana Enders is assisting the Houston Lab with a Region 4, 5, and 6 Full-Scale Exercise to address a critical vulnerability in the area of emergency response and preparedness - timely delivery of large volumes of high quality environmental data. The exercise will run from November 30 to December 7. (SF)
- RRT6 conducted their winter meeting at the Addison facility December 4 and 5. Important agenda items discussed included RRT6 committee structure and responsibilities, NCP Subpart J dispersants, Hurricane Isaac lessons learned, and Contingency Planning (at both Regional and Area levels). (SF)
- Drafted response to Goliad County citizens regarding approval of UEC aquifer exemption. (WQ)
- Director signed memo to RA re:AR PSD, GHG Tailoring Rule Revisions approval and promulgation. (PD)
- John Tuma, the former Wastewater GM and former owner of the ARKLA facility located in Sheveport, LA was sentenced following his March 2012 trial conviction for discharging untreated wastewater directly into the Red River without a permit, discharging untreated wastewater into the city of Shreveport sewer system in violation of its permit and obstructing an EPA inspection. Tuma was sentenced to a 60-month prison sentence, three years of supervised release and a \$100,000 fine. He was immediately remanded into custody. (RC/CID)
- On December 3, 2012 Battery Reclamation, Inc. (BRI) owner Herbert A.F. Larsen, former BRI President Robert L. Curry, and former V.P. of Operations, Kathleen Cox each pled guilty to one-count of Negligent Endangerment under the Clean Air Act and were each sentenced to one year probation. The US District Judge (who was extremely hostile towards this case) ordered no probation, incarceration, or restitution. Previously, in April 2010, a Grand Jury in the WDTX (Pecos, TX Division) filed a True Bill charging the above individuals and others with Conspiracy and violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. (RC/CID)

**Pending HQ Decisions:**

- Air Planning Section briefed OAQPS on Regional responses to the questions raised in the Wise County ozone designation. An official EPA response is targeted by December 13<sup>th</sup>. (PD)
- Conference call held December 5<sup>th</sup> on the Title V permit petition for the Luminant permit in Texas. The RA and DRA were briefed last week on the process and expected decision. (PD)
- Deputy and Associate Air Director participated in special subject conference call with OAQPS regarding implementation of the SO<sub>2</sub> standard, and issues related to designations based on modeling or monitoring. (PD)

**HQ Visits:**

- On December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, Region 6 will host a national Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) meeting at the Addison Facility. This is a meeting of the regional and HQ SMM managers. The purpose is to plan for the future of the SMM program. (PD)

### **Emerging Issues:**

- Drafting communications plan for AR 303d CWA list (XA)
- Drafting communications plan for Arkansas GHG permit (XA)
- Drafting communications plan for Equistar LaPorte draft GHG permit (XA)
- Drafting communications plan for Equistar Methanol draft GHG permit (XA)
- For some of the BlackBerry owners who have been un-archived, their BlackBerry gets intermittent Mail service at best, or no new mail. RIM says that the un-archiving process overloads the BB server in terms of number of new docs, read /unread marks, new folders. While none of these docs are sent down to the BB device, the server must review all changes and decide if they need to be passed on or not to the device. This review process is overwhelming the BB servers for a given User and this interrupts Mail flow to the BB device. The Central Email Admins are working with the BB Admins to find a fix until a fix is found, we are not un-archiving any BB owners in DC, or anywhere else we might restart the process. This is the latest update as of 12-6-12. (MD)